

Docket No. A2011-93

## Postal Regulatory Commission

Washington, D.C. 20268-0001

### NOTICE OF FILING UNDER 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)

TO THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE:

Please take notice that on September 27, 2011, the Commission received two petitions for review of the Postal Service's determination to close the Freedom post office located in Freedom, Wyoming. The first petition for review was filed by Gary Hokanson. The second petition for review was filed by Ida and Dee Hokanson. The earliest postmark date is September 12, 2011.

This notice is advisory only and is being furnished so that the Postal Service may begin assembling the administrative record in advance of any formal appeal proceedings held upon the alleged (closing/consolidation) for transmittal pursuant to 39 CFR § 3001.113(a) (requiring the filing of the record within 15 days of the filing with the Commission of a petition for review). The Postal Service's administrative record is due no later than October 12, 2011.



Shoshana M. Grove  
Secretary

Date: September 29, 2011

Attachment

A 2011-93

Chairman  
Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue, NW  
Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268-0001

RECEIVED

2011 SEP 27 P 4: 21

Received

SEP 26 2011

POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

9/11/11

Office of PAGR

Dear Chairman,

The Postal Service has posted the Final Determination to close the Freedom, WY post office.

We do not think the alternate service offered by the Postal Service for the Freedom, WY Post Office, Freedom WY, 83120 is acceptable as it does not provide a maximum degree of regular and effective service to rural areas, communities and small towns where the post office is not self-sustaining.

It will be a major inconvenience for us to purchase stamps, money orders, send or receive registered mail, certified mail, and mail parcels. Also, many of our senior residents receive their medications through the mail. We are concerned that prescriptions left in mailboxes will be exposed to extreme weather conditions, including excessive heat, rain, and/or cold temperatures. We are also concerned about vandalism, theft, and even identity theft.

Our little post office represents the federal government to our residents and it is hard for us to understand the reasoning of the USPS. We understand the financial hardships the Postal Service is facing; however, it is still against the law to close a post office that is not financially self-sustaining. Closing post offices would cut about 7500 jobs. Rural America cannot afford to lose any more jobs in this fragile economy.

The financial report for the Freedom Post Office is not accurate. We now have the Silverstar Communications business, which brings in approximately \$3500 dollars per month.

Before closing small post offices why not try closing post offices on Saturdays which would save approximately \$80 billion dollars, and/or cutting down on hours. Small rural post offices are the keystone of many rural communities, and the fact is that closing post offices saves the Postal Service very little money. According to PRC data the total net cost of the 10,000 smallest Post Offices--more than one-third of all Post Offices in the United States--is less than seven tenths of one percent (0.7%) of the total cost of the United States Postal Service.

We are fearful the closure of the post office will mean the loss of our town's identity as we have heard that happened to friends and family in other small communities. A rural carrier can't provide the same services as our post office.

We would like to request a Grant of Labor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Hokanson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Gary Hokanson

PO Box 251

Freedom, WY 83120

307-883-2876

Cell: 307-413-4763

bkhokanson@silverstar.com



Date of Posting: 08/29/2011

Date of Removal: 09/30/2011

FINAL DETERMINATION TO CLOSE  
THE FREEDOM, WY POST OFFICE  
AND ESTABLISH  
SERVICE BY HIGHWAY CONTRACT ROUTE SERVICE

DOCKET NUMBER 1364103 - 83120

A2011-93

RECEIVED

Chairman  
Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue, NW  
Suite 200  
Washington,, DC 20268-0001

2011 SEP 27 P 4: 22

POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman,

Docket Number 1364103-83120

The Postal Service has posted the Final determination to close the Freedom, WY 83120 post office. We do not think the alternate service offered by the Postal service for Freedom, WY 83120 is acceptable as it does not provide a maximum degree of regular and effective service to our communities.

We do not believe closing our post office and providing delivery and retail service by a carrier meets requirements of the above mentioned rule. It is inconvenient for customers to purchase money orders/ stamps, send and receive registered mail and certified mail. We are also concerned about vandalism, theft and even identity theft.

Our little post office represents the federal government to our residents and it is hard for us to understand the reasoning of USPS. We understand the financial hardship the Postal Service is facing. I plan to show how our Post Office is financially self-sustaining. Rural America cannot afford to lose any more jobs in this fragile economy. We appreciate your consideration of our views and comments.

In the letter dated 08-29-2011 it stated two different times (#3 page 2, and # 2 page 6) that our zip code would not change... Then on # 8 page 6 it tells us the zip code would be changed. Which would it be? The total savings estimates that the USPS would save would be \$41,210.00 each year by closing the Freedom Post Office. On page 1 and page 8 it says we have 4 permit mailers. Why isn't that money added into the money earned ? It would raise our revenue, and save our Post Office.

Sincerely,

*Ida Hokanson*

Ida Hokanson retired Postmaster  
PO Box 307  
Freedom, WY 83120  
307-883-2816  
Cell: 307-654-1879  
hokanson@silverstar.com

*Would you want to save the name  
of your Post Office if it had  
"FREEDOM" in its name?*



Date of Posting: 08/29/2011

Date of Removal: 09/30/2011

Received

SEP 26 2011

Office of PAGR

FINAL DETERMINATION TO CLOSE  
THE FREEDOM, WY POST OFFICE  
AND ESTABLISH  
SERVICE BY HIGHWAY CONTRACT ROUTE SERVICE

9

DOCKET NUMBER 1384103 - 83120

.Chairman  
Postal Regulatory Commission  
901 New York Avenue, NW  
Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268-0001

Dear Chairman,

- We do not think or like the proposal to close the Freedom, Wyoming post office. It does not provide regular and effective service to our rural areas and small town. Our post office is and will be self sustaining with the return of Silver Star Telephone revenue to the Freedom Office. (about \$3000 to \$5000 per month) Closing the office would require us to drive 21 miles for service.
- It will be inconvenient for us to purchase money orders/stamps, sent and receive registered mail and certified mail. We do not want our zip code changed. We are also concerned about vandalism, theft, and especially identity theft. Weather conditions are very severe for several months of the year.

Our office serves customers in two states and three counties. There aren't other business on the Wyo. side of the street. to provide this service. New contract employees may not be trained adequately and would definitely not gives us good service. Mail security would also be an issue.

This contracted service could be terminated at any time and then the office closed. We would lose our right to appeal. Our office could be closed without our in put. Other people do not understand our situation as well as we do having lived here all of our lives.

The decision to combine our office with the Thayne or Afton, Wyo. is unacceptable. They do not have the personnel or boxes to handle our volume of mail. The acting postmaster in Afton is very inconsiderate and rude to the public. We would lose our identity and strongly oppose this action. The office and postmaster are important to our community.

Our post office represent the government to our people It is against the law to close our office where it is self supporting or non self supporting. I don't think this is a sound judgment decision made by someone not in our situation. The decision does not or will not provide us with the same or equal service that we have now. It is not cost effective.

Please reconsider your decision..

Sincerely yours,



Dee Hokanson  
P.O. Box 307  
Freedom, Wyo. 83120  
cell 307-248-3956





Date of Posting: 08/29/2011

Date of Removal: 09/30/2011

**FINAL DETERMINATION TO CLOSE  
THE FREEDOM, WY POST OFFICE  
AND ESTABLISH  
SERVICE BY HIGHWAY CONTRACT ROUTE SERVICE**

**DOCKET NUMBER 1364103 - 83120**

**CF**